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# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

CASE NO.: 20-CV-1891

DEBORAH DONOGHUE and DAVID LOPEZ,

Plaintiffs,

-against-

PRIMORIS SERVICES CORPORATION,

Deten	dant.	

PLAINTIFFS, by DAVID LOPEZ, ESQ., their attorney, complaining of the defendant, allege as follows:

# **JURISDICTION**

1. Jurisdiction over this action is conferred upon the court as a procedural incident

to the provisions of Section 16(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 15 U.S.C. 78p(b) and Section 78aa, and other relevant sections of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. This action is not a collusive one intended to confer jurisdiction of a cause upon a court of the United States over which it would not otherwise have cognizance.

#### **VENUE**

- 2, Upon information and belief, and at all times hereinafter mentioned, PRIMORIS SERVICES CORPORATION ("PRIMORIS") was and is a Delaware corporation with principal offices located at 2300 North Field Street, Suite 1900, Dallas, Texas 75201.
- 3. Upon information and belief, at all times hereinafter mentioned, the defendant's issued and outstanding shares of common stock were registered under Section 12(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and were not exempted securities thereunder. The common stock of PRIMORIS is traded on the NASDAQ Stock Market, LLC, a National Securities Exchange whose headquarters and facilities are located in the City and State of New York. Some or all of the underlying transactions in Plaintiff's short-swing trading claim were executed on that National Securities Exchange.
- 4. Services giving rise to the recovery to be recited herein were rendered in whole or in part within the Eastern District of New York conferring venue upon this court.
- 5. One of the plaintiffs resides and is domiciled within the Eastern District of New York conferring venue upon this court.

#### THE PARTIES

- 6. At all times hereinafter mentioned, the plaintiff, DEBORAH DONOGHUE, was and is an owner of common stock of the defendant.
  - 7. At all times hereinafter mentioned the plaintiffs' attorney, DAVID LOPEZ, ESQ.,

was and is an attorney engaged in the practice of law within this district and before this court.

8. Upon information and belief at all times hereafter mentioned THOMAS EDWARD McCORMICK was an "insider" of PRIMORIS, to wit its president, CEO and a director.

## **OPERATIVE FACTS**

- 9. THOMAS EDWARD McCORMICK sold 4,500 shares of PRIMORIS Common Stock on December 17, 2019.
- 10. THOMAS EDWARD McCORMICK purchased 2,150 shares of PRIMORIS Common Stock on March 13, 2020, within a period of less than six months of the sale.
- 11. The aforesaid sale was at a price higher than the aforesaid purchase. THOMAS EDWARD McCORMICK realized profits in such transactions of \$24,904.84, more or less, which profits were subject to recovery by PRIMORIS under the provisions of Section 16(b) of the Act.
- 12. Upon information and belief THOMAS EDWARD McCORMICK, while an officer and director of PRIMORIS failed to identify or to pay over such profits to PRIMORIS except as hereinafter described. THOMAS EDWARD McCORMICK and PRIMORIS had not discharged their respective obligations and rights prior to the intervention of plaintiff and of her counsel on March 16, 2020.
- 13. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 16(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 the plaintiff, DEBORAH DONOGHUE, as a stockholder of PRIMORIS, was authorized and empowered to investigate and to identify all transactions effected in its equity securities by officers, directors and more-than-10% shareholders of PRIMORIS for the purpose of determining whether any such transactions came within the purview of the statute; for the purpose of requesting the defendant to commence suit against any of its officers, directors or more-than-10% shareholders to seek recovery of any profits which they might have realized from their illegal

retention of profits derived from trading in the defendant's equity securities; and for the purpose of commencing suit against any such officers, directors or more-than-10% shareholders in the name and on behalf of the defendant to recover the short-swing profits realized by any of them in the event the defendant failed or refused to institute such action or failed diligently to prosecute such suit thereafter.

- 14. Acting under the right and authority granted to her by the statute as aforesaid the plaintiff, DEBORAH DONOGHUE, retained the legal services of DAVID LOPEZ, ESQ. in a derivative capacity on behalf of the defendant herein to investigate the transactions effected in the defendant's securities by its officers, directors and more-than-10% shareholders to determine whether any of such transactions came within the purview of the statute; to determine and calculate the profits, if any, realized by such officers or directors or more-than-10% shareholders and the nature and extent of their statutory liability; to make proper statutory demand on the defendant requesting that it institute suit against any of its officers, directors or more-than-10% shareholders for the recovery of such statutory profits; to furnish the defendant with information as might be necessary or proper for the commencement and prosecution of such action; and to prepare all pleadings, proofs and papers necessary or proper for the commencement of such suit in the event the defendant failed or refused to institute such action or failed diligently to prosecute the same thereafter.
- 15. The plaintiff, DEBORAH DONOGHUE, agreed to pay a fair and reasonable attorney's fee to DAVID LOPEZ, ESQ. for his legal services rendered, contingent upon any benefits which the defendant might derive therefrom and contingent upon the defendant's reimbursing the plaintiff in the amount of such legal fee so incurred.
  - 16. The law firm of DAVID LOPEZ, ESQ. undertook to perform all legal services

required pursuant to the aforesaid contingent retainer and after making a complete and exhaustive investigation into the law applicable thereto and after ascertaining that the transactions of THOMAS EDWARD McCORMICK in the defendant's securities and had retained the resulting profits in violation of Section 16(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and after computing and determining that THOMAS EDWARD McCORMICK had realized profits which were recoverable by PRIMORIS in accordance with the applicable provisions of the statute aforesaid plaintiff, through her attorney, on March 16, 2020, made written demand, delivered electronically the same day, upon the board of directors of PRIMORIS that it act to recover all short-swing trading profits of THOMAS EDWARD McCORMICK through his trading in shares of PRIMORIS during periods of less than six months while an insider thereof.

- 17. Solely in response to plaintiff's demands, legal research and analysis, PRIMORIS thereafter collected \$24,904.84 from THOMAS EDWARD McCORMICK.
- 18. Plaintiff's counsel has requested of PRIMORIS a legal fee of \$6,225.00 or roughly 25% of the benefit received by PRIMORIS through his services. This request is consonant with precedent and practice in the Second Circuit. PRIMORIS has refused that request and claimed that other attorneys provided similar information and service but refuses to recognize anyone's claim to a right to compensation in a fair and reasonable amount.
- 19. Upon information and belief, by reason of its receipt and acceptance of the legal services rendered and communicated to the defendant by plaintiff's attorney, DAVID LOPEZ, ESQ., and the defendant's subsequent actions taken pursuant thereto, the defendant ratified and confirmed the right and authority granted by the statute to plaintiff, DEBORAH DONOGHUE, and to her attorney, DAVID LOPEZ, ESQ., to render the aforesaid services for and on behalf of the defendant. Upon information and belief, the defendant has knowingly received, accepted and

retained the benefits of the services rendered by plaintiff's attorney, DAVID LOPEZ, ESQ., and has realized a gain or benefit in the amount of \$24,904.84 more or less, which it would not otherwise have realized but for such services.

- 20. Plaintiff, DEBORAH DONOGHUE, is entitled to recover from the defendant a fair and reasonable fee for her attorney for services contingently undertaken and incurred in performing those services and in taking the steps which resulted in the creation of a fund for defendant's benefit in the amount of \$24,904.84. Plaintiff, DEBORAH DONOGHUE seeks no personal benefit but brings this action to recover the expenses contingently incurred by her in an amount of the reasonable value of the legal services rendered by her attorney, DAVID LOPEZ, ESQ., and solely for the purpose of paying for those services.
- 21. Plaintiff, DAVID LOPEZ, is entitled to be paid a fair and reasonable fee under the circumstances here described.
- 22. Upon information and belief, and in view of the amount of benefit conferred upon the defendant, the fair and reasonable value of the legal services rendered by plaintiff's attorney, DAVID LOPEZ, ESQ., in this matter is \$6,225.00 or 25% of the recovery.

### WHEREFORE, plaintiffs demand:

- A determination and declaration of the fair and reasonable amount due to plaintiff
   DEBORAH DONOGHUE as payment for her legal fees and to DAVID LOPEZ in non-duplicative payment of that fee.
  - 2. Judgment against the defendant in the amount of \$6,225.00 inclusive of out-of-pocket disbursements, together with the costs of this action, the latter to include statutory costs, filing fees and service of process.

3. Such other, further and/or different relief as the court may deem just and proper.

Dated: Southampton, New York

April 23, 2020

Law Offices of DAVID LOPEZ, ESQ.

By: Javid DAVID LOPEZ, ESQ. (DL-6779)